

tabernacle : penarth

purpose: to reflect God's love in our church,
community and world.

the protection of
vulnerable adults

As Christians we are charged to love and care for each other. This is particularly so with the vulnerable people that attend Tabernacle Baptist Church.

The church places responsibility on all its members to commit themselves to support the vulnerable, to ensure the church environment is safe for the vulnerable and all who share in the life of the church, both formal and informal.

Definition of a vulnerable person is someone who may be at risk and is in need as a result of:

- a) Sensory and physical disability or impairment.
- b) A learning disability.
- c) A physical illness.
- d) A mental illness, chronic or otherwise including dementia or an addiction to alcohol or drugs.
- e) A reduction of physical, mental or emotional capacity, or someone who has for any reason become unable to protect him or herself from significant harm or exploitation.
- f) Ageing.

It is a mistake to make the assumption that every adult with impairment is vulnerable or that they would be vulnerable in every area of their lives.

What are we trying to protect vulnerable adults from?

Vulnerable adults are to be protected from exploitation and abuse that may take the form of:

- a) Physical
- b) Sexual
- c) Psychological
- d) Financial – This may include the offer of gifts to a pastoral visitor or to the church. Pastoral visitors should decline the offer of gifts and with any gift given to the church there should be a check on whether the person offering the gift can afford it.

Abuse and exploitation are based on the misuse of power, control and authority.

What is good practice?

When working with vulnerable adults people need to be clear about what they are doing and why. This is because they are responding to the needs of people who may not be able to speak for themselves or may not have been listened to by others.

All people are to be treated with respect, each person's individual unique characteristics and intrinsic values should be recognised.

The church needs to ensure the building and equipment such as access, lighting, heating and temperature control, toilet facilities, large print on the hymn sheets are appropriate for everyone.

Confidentiality is important, particularly with regard to counselling.

If anyone working with vulnerable adults suspects that they are being abused in any way they should report this concern to the pastor of the church.

Church Office
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Appendix A

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Penarth **PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

This Statement was adopted at a Church Meeting held on 31st January 2011. It will be presented annually to a church meeting where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
2. It is the responsibility of each of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
3. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with vulnerable adults.
4. The Church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
5. The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain published in *Safe To Belong*.
6. Each person who works with vulnerable adults will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

The Church appoints to represent the concerns and views of vulnerable adults at our Meetings and to outside bodies.

SIGNED:



POSITION: PASTOR